

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 DPW-01 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 EUR-10 IO-03

RSR-01 SSO-00 PRS-01 /068 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4504

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12581

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON JULY 11 INFO LDRUSSAG NKP RFAFB
USDAO SAIGON REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE DANANG 874

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, JULY 11, 1973

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACTIVITY HAS REMAINED LIGHT AND SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE TWO DAY REPORTING PERIOD WITH TWO EXCEPTIONS. IN DUY XUYEN DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, 6 1/2 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF TRA KIEU, AT 0245 HOURS ON JULY 11, THE 2ND BATTALION, 57TH REGIMENT TOOK AN ATTACK BY FIRE (ABF) OF 55 ROUNDS AND A GROUND ATTACK, RESULTING IN FRIENDLY 3 KIA, 11 WIA, AND 1 APC 50 PERCENT DAMAGED; ENEMY CASUALTIES WERE NOT KNOWN. ON JULY 10, A SERIES OF FIVE "ENGAGEMENTS" (OFTEN AN EUPHEMISM FOR A FRIENDLY INITIATED ACTION) OCCURRED IN SOUTHERN QUANG NAM, MOSTLY IN QUE SON DISTRICT, RESULTED IN FRIENDLY 4 WIA; ENEMY 14 KIA. FOLLOWING ARE STATISTICS FOR THE TWO-DAY PERIOD BROKEN OUT ACCORDING TO THE DAY THEY WERE

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BRIEFED AT I CORPS HEADQUARTERS:

JULY 10: TWO CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED MADE UP OF ONE ATTACK BY FIRE (ABF) AND ONE HARASSMENT. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 5 KIA, 1 MIA, 18 WIA; ENEMY 10 KIA.

JULY 11: THREE CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED MADE UP OF ONE GROUND ATTACK AND 2 ABF. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 1 KIA, 27 WIA; ENEMY 25 KIA. NO VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS.

2. TPJMC:

SENIOR RVN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CEASEFIRE (CF) REGION I TPJMC, COLONEL TRUONG TAN THUC, IS PERSONALLY DOUBTFUL THE PRG ARE ANY MORE SERIOUS ABOUT DEPLOYMENT THAN THEY EVER WERE. IN CONVERSATION WITH THE HUE POLOFF, THUC NOTED THAT IN EARLY JUNE, THE PRG WERE TALKING ABOUT ADDITIONAL PRISONER EXCHANGES BUT HAVE SINCE AVOIDED THE SUBJECT. NOW THE PRG ARE WAXING ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT REGIONAL DEPLOYMENT BUT CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT IN ALL BUT REGIONS VI AND VII, THE TPJMC SITES BE ESTABLISHED ALONG "POINTS OF CONTACT" OF OPPOSING FORCES. DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF THE PRG LIAISON OFFICERS, COLONEL THAO (FNU), WHO IS APPARENTLY THE LATEST PRG SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE-DESIGNATE TO THE CF I TPJMC, ASKED COLONEL THUC WHAT HE THOUGHT ABOUT HE AND THUC CROSSING IN BOATS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE BANKS OF THE THACH HAN TO HOLD MEETINGS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER. THUC REPORTS THAT HE REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD PROVIDE AN AMUSING SPECTACLE, PARTICULARLY DURING THE APPROACHING MONSOON SEASON.

3. ICCS:

THE CURRENT CF REGION I "TEAPOT TEMPEST" CONCERNS THE RVN REFUSAL TO ALLOW THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION TO DROP ON THE PRG LIAISON OFFICERS AT THE JMC COMPOUND ON JULY 8. THE RVN SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, COLONEL THUC, TOLD THE HUE POLOFF THE HUNGARIANS HAD NO RIGHT TO SHOW UP UNANNOUNCED ON A SUNDAY AND DEMAND TO BE ADMITTED WHEN THEY WERE CLEARLY NOT ON AN ICCS MISSION AND PROBABLY ONLY WANTED TO PASS MESSAGES TO SAIGON FOR THE PRG. THE HUNGDEL BROUGHT THE MATTER BEFORE THE ICCS AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE RVN'S UNWILLINGNESS TO ALLOW THE ICCS FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND URGED THAT THE ICCS PROTEST SUCH RESTRICTION AND THE RVN'S ALLEGED "MISTREATMENT" OF THE HUNGARIANS. THE INDODEL AND THE CANDEL
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ARGUED THAT THE SITUATION WAS NOT AT ALL ANALAGOUS TO THE PRG'S RELUCTANCE TO GRANT FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT TO THE ICCS POINT OF ENTRY TEAMS. THE CANDEL'S COLONEL MACLEOD TOLD THE POLOFF THE ISSUE WOULD BE DISPOSED OF BY STALLING UNTIL THE CANADIANS TAKE OVER THE CHAIRMANSHIP FROM THE POLES AND WILL BE IN A POSITION TO REMOVE THE MATTER FROM THE AGENDA. IN CF REGION II, ON THE OTHER HAND, GVN SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL DO TUNG PROVIDED NO INTERFERENCE WITH ATTEMPTS BY POLDELS OR HUNGDELS TO HAVE SUCH ACCESS. ON ONE

OCCASION IN PRESENCE OF CONGEN POLOFF, TUNG GREETED A POLDEL-
HUNGDEL GROUP AND CHATTED WITH THEM BRIEFLY BEFORE THEY WENT OFF
TO FIND THE PRG.

4. MILITARY SITUATION: EFFECTS OF THE RAINS

A. WHILE THE RECENT HEAVY STORM WAS STILL IN PROGRESS, LTG
LAM QUANG THI, CG I CORPS FORWARD, TOLD THE HUE POLOFF THAT HE
EXPECTED THAT THE ENEMY WOULD BE FLOODED OUT OF HIS TRENCHES IN
THE CO BI AREA AND THAT WHEN THE RAINS SUBSIDED, THE AIRBORNE
WOULD REASSERT CONTROL OF THE AREA. HOWEVER, NATURE DID NOT
COOPERATE AND THE RAINS STOPPED ABOUT ONE DAY TOO SOON. INSTEAD
OF FLUSHING OUT THE COMMUNISTS, THE RAIN CURTAILED EFFORTS BY THE
1ST AIRBORNE BATTALION TO ENCIRCLE THE ENEMY WITH TRENCHES AND
CUT OFF ALL ACCESS TO SUPPLIES. THE TRENCH-DIGGING HAS RESUMED
AND GENERAL THI REMAINS CONFIDENT THAT THE COMMUNISTS CAN BE
PERSUADED TO LEAVE QUIETLY AND THAT THE AIRBORNE CAN MAINTAIN
CONTRO
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